

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

PCT/EP 03/11550

Re Item V

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: US-B1-6 292 772 (KANTROWITZ) 18 September 2001

D2: US-A-5 634 134 (KUMAI ET AL.) 27 May 1997*

* refers to a document cited as evidence of the skilled person's general knowledge.

2. The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

Document D1 discloses a method for operating an output device and for outputting text data in one of at least two languages with at least partly different character sets by utilizing only one input means for all languages (see in particular column 6, lines 8 to 16) comprising the following steps:

- a) Inputting at least one character by said input means (see in particular column 2, lines 59 to 62);
- b) Automatic checking of said at least one character and/or a sequence of characters by utilizing a number of predetermined rules related to the sequence of characters (see in particular column 2, lines 50 to 56);
- c) Automatic outputting of said character or sequence of characters with a first character set of a first language, if the sequence is allowed in said first language according to said predetermined rules (see in particular column 2, lines 29 to 39);
- d) Automatic outputting of said character or sequence of characters with a second character set of a second language, if the sequence is not allowed in said first language according to said predetermined rules (see in particular column 5, lines 22 to 31).

Hence D1 discloses in combination all features of claim 1. Consequently, the subject-matter of this claim is not new.

3. Dependent claims 2-13 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT)
 - 3.1. The additional features of claims 2 and 3 are known from D2 (see in particular figure 7, 8, column 18, lines 1 to 5, column 18, line 50 to column 19, line 3).
 - 3.2. The additional features of claims 4-10 are merely a design options which are widely known per se and perform their usual functions, without interacting to produce an unexpected technical effect.
 - 3.3. The subject matter of claims 11-13 is not new as any computer with an input keyboard, an output display and/or printer, a storage device and a processor is suitable for performing the claimed method.
4. Because of the reasons stated in sections 2 and 3 above, claims 1 to 13 are not allowable. In view of the available prior art, it does not appear that any part of the application could serve as a basis for a new allowable claim. Thus, it appears unlikely that the present application could be amended so as to result in a positive International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER).